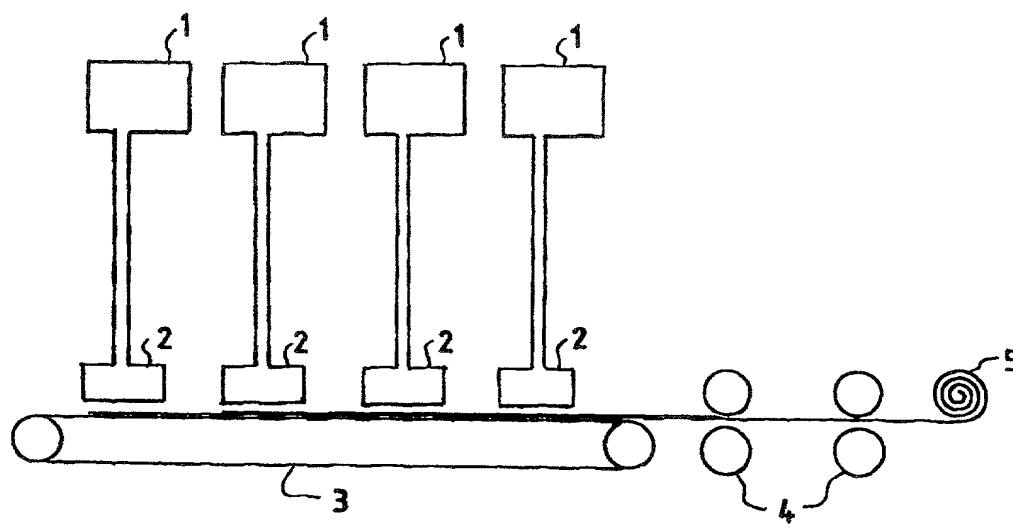


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(54) Title: A SOFT, STRONG, ABSORBENT MATERIAL FOR USE IN ABSORBENT ARTICLES  (57) Abstract <p>An absorbent material that can be used as an absorbent core in absorbent articles such as disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products and incontinence devices is provided. An absorbent material of this invention contains cellulosic fibers at least a portion of which cellulosic fibers have a relative crystallinity of less than about 65 percent. The absorbent material has superior absorptive, strength, and suppleness properties when compared to existing core materials. The material can be air-laid in one or more layers.</p>		